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CAPTAIN BLOOD

A Romance of the Spanish Main

by RAFAEL SABATINI

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"CAPTAIN BLOOD," a Vitagraph picture with J. Warren Kerrigan in the title role, is an adaption of this thrilling novel.

CHAPTER VI
SYMPATHY

One day, towards the end of May, there crawled into Carlisle Bay a wounded, battered English ship, the Pride of Devon. She had been in action off Martinique with two Spanish treasure ships. One of the Spaniards has died from the combat.

Sheed, after the fashion of most colonial governors, gave the Pride of Devon shelter and every facility to careen and carry out repairs.

But, before it came to this, they fetched from her hold over a score of English seamen as battered and broken as the ship herself, and, together with these, some half-dozen Spaniards in like case. These wounded men were conveyed to a long shed on the wharf, and the medical skill of Bridgetown was summoned to their aid. Peter Blood was ordered to bear a hand in this work, and partly because he spoke Castilian (and he spoke it as fluently as his own native tongue) and partly because of his inferior condition as a slave, he was given the Spaniards for his patients. They were shunned, however, by all those charitably disposed inhabitants of Bridgetown who flocked to the improvised hospital with gifts of fruit and flowers and delicacies for the injured English seamen.

Rising suddenly from the redressing of a wound, a task in which he had been absorbed for some moments, he saw, to his surprise, that one lady, detached from the general throng, was placing some plantains and a bundle of succulent sugar cane on the cloak that served one of his patients for a coverlet. Peter Blood stood at gaze a moment. The lady, turning now to confront him, her lips parting in a smile of recognition, was Arabella Bishop.

"The man's a Spaniard," said he in the tone of one who corrects a misapprehension. She frowned and stared at him a moment, with increasing haughtiness.

"So I perceive. But he's a human being none the less," said she.

"Your uncle, the colonel, is of a different opinion," said he when he had recovered. "He regards them as vermin to be left to languish and die of their festering wounds."

"Why do you tell me this?"

"To warn you that you may be incurring the colonel's displeasure. If he had his way, I should never have been allowed to dress their wounds."

"And you thought, of course, that I must be of my uncle's mind?"

"I'd not willingly be rude to a lady, even in my thoughts," said he. "But that you should bestow gifts on them, considering that if your uncle came to hear of it—" He paused, leaving the sentence unfinished. "Ah, well; there it is," he concluded.

"First you impute to me inhumanity, and then cowardice. Faith, for a man who would not willingly be rude to a lady even in his thoughts, it's none so bad." Her boyish laught trilled out, but the note of it jarred his ears this time.

He saw her now, it seemed to him, for the first time, and saw how he had misjudged her.

"Sure, now, how was I to guess that that Colonel Bishop could have an angel for his niece?" said he recklessly, for he was reckless, as men often are in sudden penitence.

"You wouldn't of course. I shouldn't think you often guess aright."

Without another word or so much as another glance at Peter Blood, she swept out of the place.

Peter fetched a sigh.

CHAPTER VII
PIRATES

There was, too, a new hope. There were two doctors in Bridgetown, both freemen, and they were feeling the rivalry of this new rebel convict slave, whose earnings for services went to Colonel Bishop. To rid themselves of his rivalry, they proposed to Peter Blood to finance his escape from the island. He enlisted his good friends, including Jeremy Pitt, whose skillful seaman's knowledge must be needed to guide the sloop which they were to purchase. But the plan miscarried in that Kent the overseer, suspected Pitt, and Colonel Bishop ordered Pitt to the stocks, where he had him flogged soundly.

Even while Jeremy was being prepared for the lash, the colonel looked seaward and saw in the roads, standing in for the shore before a gentle breeze that scarcely ruffled the surface, a stately red-hulled frigate, flying the English ensign. So leisurely an advance argued a master indifferently acquainted with these waters. The colonel withdrew when his passion had been satisfied by Pitt's punishment, and there to the stocks Peter found him, and set about giving him succor as a doctor and as a friend. Pitt's pillory seemed to end all hope of escape. It was now Peter's hope to save his friend from death. And, while he staunched the flow of blood, his thoughts, grim and hopeless as they were, were interrupted. He felt the shadow of Colonel Bishop upon him.

"What the devil are you doing here?"

Mr. Blood turned to face him, and over that swarthy countenance (which, indeed, by now was tanned to the gold en brown of a half-caste Indian) a mask descended.

"Doing?" said he blandly. "Why, the duties of my office."

"I said he was to have neither meat nor drink until I ordered it."

"Sure, now, I never heard ye."

For an instant the colonel was too amazed at his impudence to speak Then:

"If you're alive when my blacks have done with you, perhaps you'll come to your senses."

He swung to his negroes to issue an order. But it was never issued. At that moment a terrific rolling thunderclap drowned his voice and shook the very air. Colonel Bishop jumped; his negroes jumped with him, and so did even the apparently imperturbable Mr Blood. Then the four of them stared together seawards.

As those men started from the eminence on which they stood, not yet understanding what had taken place, they saw the British jack dip from the main truck and, to replace the flag of England soared the gold and crimson banner of Castile.

"Pirates!" roared the colonel, and again "Pirates!"

CHAPTER VIII
SPANIARDS

The stately ship that had been allowed to sail so leisurely into Carlisle Bay under her false colours was a Spanish privateer, coming to pay off some of the heavy debt piled up by the predaceous Brethren of the Coast, and the recent defeat by the Pride of Devon of two treasure galleons bound for Cadiz. It happened that the galleon which escaped in a more or less crippled condition was commanded by Don Diego de Espinosary Valdez, who was own brother to the Spanish Admiral Don Miguel de Espinosa, and who was also very hasty, proud and hot-tempered gentlemen.

He had succeeded so well in his intentions that he had aroused no suspicion until he saluted the fort at short range with a broadside of twenty guns.

And now the gaping watchers in the stockade on the headland beheld the great ship creep forward under the rising cloud of smoke, her mainsail unfurled to increase her steering way, and go about close-hauled to bring her larboard guns to bear upon the unready fort.

(To Be Continued)

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IN MEMORIAM

JAMES F. STEVENSON

On October 22nd, 1924 at New Glasgow, N. S., there passed peacefully away to be forever with the Lord, James F. Stevenson formerly of Fredericton, P. E. I., aged ninety years. Deceased was a man of sterling character beloved and reverenced by his family, and respected by the community in which he lived. He leaves to mourn five daughters and three sons, namely, Mrs. Alexander Enman, New Glasgow, N. S. at whose home he was tenderly cared for in his declining years, Mrs. Richard Enman, Victoria West, Mrs. C. C. Norwood, Amesbury, Mass, Mrs. H. E. Bowman Charlottetown, Mrs. W. W. Marsh, Lynn, Mass., the sons being Albert and Fred in Washington and Frank in Northern Alberta.

The funeral service which was very impressive was held from the home of Andrew Stevenson, Elliotts, being conducted by Rev. A. P. Hodges, pastor of the Christian Church, New Glasgow P. E. I., of which church he was a member for many years, assisted by Rev. W. J. Haytes, Evangelist, also Rev. O. H. Peters, of the Methodist Church, Pleasant Valley.

His remains were laid to rest in Fredericton Cemetery beside his wife who predeceased him eleven years ago, and among the remains of many who in the by-gone days had loved and respected him and with whom he had toiled for the higher things of life.

(Patriot Please Copy.)

Each man has his fortune in his own hands, as the artist has a piece of rude matter which he is to fashion into a certain shape.—Goethe.

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Isaac Boyles	1.00
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Albert Boyles	1.00
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Nelson Palmer	1.00
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Gertrude Barlow	1.00
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Joshua Millar	12.00
Luther Crosman	2.00
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Archie Ellis	12.00
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Henry Yeo	5.00
James Millar	24.00
W. J. Montgomery	30.00
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Russel Birch	10.00
Ruby Dennis	3.00
Spurgeon Ramsay	1.00
Maurice Maynard	2.00
Minnie McLennan	2.00
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